

## REPORT OF HEAD OF RECREATION AND TOURISM

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**SUBJECT:**  
**DRAFT RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **Purpose of Report**

To outline to process and responses from the public consultation on the draft Recreation Plan for the National Park, and to seek members' agreement for the plan to be finalized, for a resulting action plan to be agreed and for both to be published. The next step is to set up an Implementation Group of partners to monitor and develop the work resulting from the plan. The Plan and the Recreation Audit are going to be incorporated into the Visit Wales Destination Management website as examples of good practice.

### **Introduction/Background**

In September 2010 the Authority agreed that the draft recreation plan should be sent for public consultation. The consultation was managed by Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum on behalf of the Authority and the responses have now been received, analyzed and responded to. The comments and the responses of the NPA are available on a website link shown below.

The plan was widely publicized to a mailing (Electronic) list of around 500 individuals and organizations. In addition it was promoted on Radio, through local press and at a variety of local recreation meetings including the Outdoor Charter and Marine Code groups, the Local Access Forum and in meetings with the tourism trade.

The plan received over 60 written responses; other feedback was received through meetings, school presentations and specific interest groups – e.g. divers.

The plan is for the park itself and the adjacent inland waters where recreation can have a significant influence on the experience and the special qualities of the National Park.

In general the comments on the structure and presentation of the plan were positive – see table below

<b>Question</b> (Not all respondents ticked the question boxes)	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Q1 Do you agree that this Plan is needed and with the requirements of the Plan?	24	0
Q3 Do you agree with the current recreation overview? Have we missed any recreational activities that you feel should be in the plan?	11	3
Q7 Are the places where the focus is placed correct?	12	1
Q10 Does the vision seem appropriate?	14	1

Q11 Are the objectives the right ones? Are they clearly phrased?	13	1
Q13 Does the division of the Park into Recreation Character Areas help?	19	0
Q19 Does the focus of the plan on outdoor recreation in public or semi public land and water make sense?	9	0
Q22 Does the plan address the main issues/problems associated with recreation?	11	2

### Changes in the plan have included;

- The vision of the plan has been strengthened following comments from consultees.

#### **Draft Plan Vision**

“Pembrokeshire is a leading year-round destination for outdoor recreation, based around a high-quality landscape and a welcoming experience, contributing to health, social and economic benefits. It is promoted with consideration for site capacity, sensitivity and the area’s values. Ultimately, we simply want people to continue enjoying the National Park in a sustainable way.”

#### **Revised Plan Vision**

We work in partnership to make Pembrokeshire a leading ‘year round’ opportunity for outdoor recreation balancing protection of the special qualities of the area, respect for site capacity and promotion of environmental sustainability, with enjoyment, ease of access for everyone, a prosperous local economy and healthy and active residents. Ultimately, we simply want people to continue enjoying the National Park in a sustainable way.”

- The categorization of recreation into classes depending on impact and benefit was broadly accepted though individual activity supporters had specific reservations. The area approach used to apply those activity criteria was supported but we have had to explain more clearly that the categorization of recreation types depends very much on location, scale and season.
- Changes to the plan to make it more clear to divers that the proposals are to do with improving launch facilities rather than removing them.
- Increasing the emphasis on the marine leisure sector and the impact of the proposed marina developments at Fishguard and on the Haven
- Giving more emphasis to the roles of the National Trust
- Many of the key issues in the original draft were shown in text boxes where an issue or situation was described and a series of questions asked about the desired way forward. From the responses to these, new text has been developed to reflect the responses and to propose a way forward. In some cases text boxes have been merged or dropped.

- The actions that had appeared in the sections of the consultation draft have been consolidated, together with actions that arose from the consultation, and incorporated into a brief action plan, which will be attached to the web-based version of the plan.

### **Financial considerations**

The costs of the production of the plan have largely come from external funding through Visit Wales and CCW. The remaining costs can be met through existing Recreation Management budgets and staff time. The Plan itself will lead on to project and ongoing work which will partly be funded through existing staff resources and partly through bids for external grant aid. Having a plan, which identifies priorities for work in recreation provision and management should help to support bids for external grant aid. We hope that, if funding permits the continual development of the Recreation Audit, the updating of a web-based version of the plan could be done alongside.

### **Risk considerations**

The plan should give guidance to the authority and partner organizations about priorities for promotion and development for the future and to identify those activities where more emphasis is needed to ensure that park purposes are met. The only risk area would be in raising expectations – we have to ensure that future work programmes and staff structures are able to progress the plan.

### **Compliance**

The plan is founded on the NPA purposes and seeks to interpret them in the management and encouragement of countryside recreation. It is a document which applies the principles set down in the National Park Management Plan (In particular Policies E1 – E4). In terms of the Park's Corporate Plan it will help to direct work to deliver Outcome 2 (Enjoyment) and also contributes to Outcomes 1 (Conservation), 5 (Economy) and 6 (Understanding).

### **Human Rights/Equality issues**

The consultation process should have not thrown up any Human-rights conflict issues. The tolls for the management of recreation are mainly in terms of negotiation, provision of support or facilities rather than in terms of regulation so there should be no issues arising from this plan.

### **Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal**

The new plan fits below both the Local Development Plan and the National Park Management Plan and having this status does not require an environmental assessment. One of the main aims of the plan is to protect the special qualities of the park.

### **Welsh Language statement**

The consultation draft was available and promoted bilingually and the final plan will be available in Welsh and English versions although we would hope that most distribution will be by electronic means and that relatively few copies will need to be printed.

## **Conclusion**

The plan is being prepared for publication by our graphics team and changes are with translators. With the authority's agreement we would expect to launch it in July and at the same time arrange for an implementation group comprising representatives of the main partner organizations covering the whole plan area, to meet later in the year to review actions and agree a programme of work for 2012.

## **Recommendation**

**Members are requested to consider the progress made so far and agree that, subject to final editing and translation, the plan should go forward for publication. It is hoped that the published version will be available for the August meeting.**

(For further information please contact Charles Mathieson, extension 4848  
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## Background papers

A copy of the final draft plan will be available at the meeting

Original Report to NPA 41/10 September 2010

Draft Consultation Plan is available at;  
<http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/default.asp?PID=435>

Comments from consultees and Staff responses are available at;  
<http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/default.asp?PID=435>

The South West Wales Recreation Audit that the plan is based on is available at;  
<http://rawg.gobase.co.uk/>

(For further information please contact Charles Mathieson, extension 4848  
[charlesm@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk](mailto:charlesm@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk))